

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION V

DATE: DEC 21 1987

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - Request for Removal Action at the Lusher Street  
Groundwater Contamination site, Elkhart, Indiana, (Site Spill ID# AR)FROM: Kenneth Theisen, On-Scene Coordinator  
Emergency Response Section *Steven J. Taylor for*TO: Basil G. Constantelos, Director  
Waste Management DivisionTHRU: Mary A. Gade, Acting Chief *M. A. Gade*  
Emergency & Remedial Response Branch

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



225739

PURPOSE

This is a request to confirm your verbal approval given on November 19, 1987, to expend up to \$50,000 to mitigate the immediate threats to human health and the environment posed by groundwater contamination at the Lusher Street Groundwater Contamination site in Elkhart, Indiana. Analytical samples taken by the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) on November 3, 1987, confirmed the presence of trichloroethene (TCE), trichloroethane (TCA), as well as other contaminants found in concentrations exceeding the removal action levels for contaminated drinking water sites as found in the October 6, 1987, Interim Final Guidance on Removal Action Levels at Contaminated Drinking Water Sites.

BACKGROUND

During routine sampling, the Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD) discovered high levels of contaminants including TCE, TCA, dichloroethene (DCE), dichloroethane (DCA), ethyl benzene, toluene and xylene, in several private wells in Elkhart, Indiana. Upon request of the ECHD, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the TAT to perform a site assessment with sampling to confirm the ECHD's findings on November 12, 1987. The TAT sample analyses confirmed the county's data.

THREAT

The contaminant levels found in the wells of 15 homes and businesses at the subject site sufficiently exceed the removal action program levels, posing an immediate hazard to the user (Attachment 1). The potential of exposure to hazardous substances to consumers of the contaminated drinking water has been documented and shown to meet the criteria set forth in Section 300.65 of the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

ENFORCEMENT

Investigation is concurrent with the removal action. No sources of the contamination have yet been identified.

PROJECT SCOPE AND ESTIMATED COSTS

Thirteen Elkhart residences and businesses require point of use carbon filters to reduce contaminant concentrations below the acceptable safe drinking water standard for all contaminants involved. The residents will have the option of accepting or rejecting the installation of a carbon filter system in their water system. The installation of the 13 point of use filters could possibly be a temporary safeguard until such time as an in-depth study of the area is done. Such a study might include additional sampling to determine extent of contamination, direction of groundwater flow, and resulting enforcement documentation, but is not proposed at this time as part of this removal action. Two of the 15 residents show contaminant levels which exceed the contaminant action levels and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) bathing concern levels, requiring the conversion of their water supply from private well to city water; installation of the point of use carbon filter would fail to eliminate the contaminant level at the bath water outlet to meet bathing standards.

Estimated costs of the proposed project are as follows:

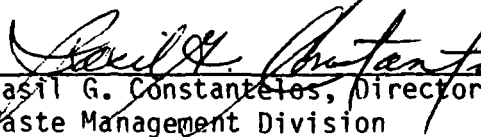
Cleanup Contractor	\$21,825.00
Contingency (15%)	3,500.00
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>\$25,325.00</u>
 TAT Costs	 8,750.00
<u>Extramural Subtotal</u>	<u>\$34,075.00</u>
Extramural	
Contingency (15%) <sup>1</sup>	5,925.00
=====	=====
EXTRAMURAL TOTAL	\$40,000.00
 U.S. EPA Direct Cost	 \$ 5,000.00
U.S. EPA Indirect Cost	5,000.00
=====	=====
INTRAMURAL TOTAL	\$10,000.00
 PROJECT TOTAL	 \$50,000.00

<sup>1</sup>This extramural contingency could be allocated as need between the cleanup contractor and the TAT (e.g., \$3,800.00 for a cleanup contractor contingency, and \$2,125.00 for a TAT contingency).

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Since the conditions at the Lusher Street Groundwater Contamination site in Elkhart, Indiana, meet the NCP §300.65 criteria for a removal action, confirmation of your verbal approval given on November 19, 1987 is recommended. Confirmation of your earlier verbal approval would establish an authorized total project ceiling of \$50,000, of which \$29,125 (\$21,825 line item, plus \$3,500 contingency, plus \$3,800 of the extramural contingency) are extramural cleanup contractor costs. The actions proposed are expected to successfully abate the immediate threats posed at the subject site in Elkhart, Indiana. You may indicate your decision by signing below.

APPROVAL:

  
Basil G. Constantelos, Director  
Waste Management Division

DATE:

12/21/87

DISAPPROVAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Basil G. Constantelos, Director  
Waste Management Division

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

bcc: B. Hamm, WH-548B  
C. Anderson, PM-214F  
J. Beck, 5PA-14  
R. Jones, 5HR-10  
N. Neidergang, 5HE-12  
M. Elam, 5CS-TUB8  
A. Gasior, 5PA-14

KTHEISEN/ru/Disk: Ray 11/27/87

## ATTACHMENT 1

Lusher Street Ground Water Contamination, Elkhart, Indiana

	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Concentration in Well, ppb</u>	<u>Action Level</u>	<u>Drinking Wtr Equiv Level DWEL, ppb</u>	<u>ATSDR Bathing Concern</u>	<u>Remedy</u>
1)	Ed Miller 2205 17th St. (219) 295-1395	TCE 804	128	257	[130]	Hookup to City Water
2)	Francis Neitzke 2121 W. Indiana (219) 293-6777	III, TCA 1590	500	1,000	[500]	
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1)	Chris Hargrove 1601 Avalon (219) 294-6134	TCE 106	128			Point of Use Carbon Filters
2)	Ray Powers 1601 Okema (219) 295-7843	III, TCA 330	500			
3)	Larry Bentley 1429 el Reno (219) 293-5676 (father)	III, TCA 358	500			
4)	Interior Access 1620 Waurika (219) 295-3860	III, TCA 263	500			
5)	David Roth 2200 W. Indiana (219) 295-8311	III, TCA 266	500			
6)	Scott Wilsey 2124 W. Indiana	III, TCA 572	500			
7)	G. Blocker 2217 W. Indiana	III, TCA 257	500			
8)	J.E. Frick 2108 W. Indiana (219) 295-1402	III, TCA 719	500			
9)	Homan Lumber 1650 Lusher	III, TCA 3,800 TCE 680	500 128		*	
10)	Glass Master 1720 Markle	TCE 93	128			
11)	Mac McCreary 1741 Fieldhouse	TCE 71	128			
12)	Sotebeer Construction 1747 Lusher	TCE 516 III, TCA 390	128 500		*	

